

Application Serial No.: 09/910,289
Attorney Docket No.: 01CON213P

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the Non-Final Office Action of March 29, 204, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 15-18, 20, 21 and 23, allowed claims 8-14, and objected to claims 2, 7 and 19. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's statement regarding allowance of claims 8-14. By the present amendment, claims 1, 2 and 15 have been amended, and claims 7 and 19 have been cancelled. After the present amendment, claims 1-6, 8-18, 20, 21 and 23 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of outstanding claims 1-6, 8-18, 20, 21 and 23 in view of the following remarks are requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 15-18, 20-21 and 23 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 15-18, 20-21 and 23, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Beale, et al. (US Publication No. 2003/0048839) ("Beale").

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 7, amended claim 2 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and amended claim 15 to include all of the limitations of claim 19. Applicant respectfully submits that according to the Examiner statement that claims 2, 7 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claims 1, 3-6, 15-18, 20-21 and 23 are now in condition for allowance.

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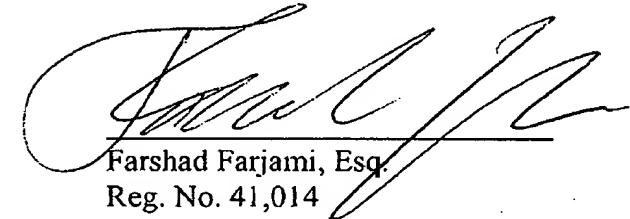
B. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-6, 8-18, 20, 21 and 23 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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